



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FUR LAW VIOLATORS PAY BIG FINES

Shipments of furs apparently in violation of State law are noted by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, through its warden service, in annual inspections of the records of raw-fur houses in various sections of the country. The inspections are made in connection with investigations for the enforcement of the Lacy Act, which prohibits interstate traffic in the dead bodies or parts thereof of wild animals killed or shipped in violation of State law. Information obtained concerning apparently illegal shipments which it is not desired to use in Federal courts is turned over to the State authorities. In consequence of this cooperation on the part of Federal officials, the States are enabled to make great numbers of prosecutions of illegal shippers, whose infractions of the State laws escape the attention of local wardens. The fines and costs assessed and collected by the States in the disposition of these cases aggregate approximately \$20,000 a year.

Reports on 54 prosecutions in 6 States during July, August, and September have come to the Biological Survey. The heaviest penalties imposed were in Colorado and Wisconsin. In 5 cases in Colorado the fines and costs aggregated \$743.55, and in 14 cases in Wisconsin \$1,670.74 was collected. Individual fines in Colorado were as high as \$300 and \$255, and in Utah \$250. A shipper in Wisconsin paid \$300 in one case and \$100 in a second prosecution. Michigan collected \$436.80 in 17 cases, and Minnesota \$210 in 16 cases. A single case in Kentucky resulted in the imposition of a \$24 penalty.

This cooperation of the Federal authorities is receiving the highest commendation from State game officials, as an aid in the effective prosecution of measures for wild-life conservation.

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